

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 019472
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INFO OCT-02 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION USNATO

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, TU, GR

SUBJECT:CYPRUS AND TURKISH DCA -- JANUARY 24 PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING IS EXTRACT FROM DEPARTMENT NOON PRESS BRIEFING

JANUARY 24 DEALING WITH CYPRUS AND US-TURKISH DCA:

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BEGIN TEXT: Q: THERE ARE SOME REPORTS IN THE AMERICAN PRESS
THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED NOW TO ASK CONGRESS TO
LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO TO TURKEY.

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A: WHAT WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID IS THAT, AS YOU KNOW, THE TURKISH DCA IS ON THE HILL AND THAT AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE TAKEN UP. I DO NOT HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON WHEN THAT TIME MAY BE.

INSOFAR AS A QUESTION IS CONCERNED, THERE WERE NO PLEDGES OR PROMISES MADE CONCERNING THAT QUESTION IN THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WE HAD EITHER IN TURKEY OR GREECE.

Q: MR. ECEVIT SAID THERE WOULD BE FOLLOW-UP TALKS.

A: YES.

Q: HAS THAT MOVED ALONG TO THE POINT WHERE YOU CAN TELL US?

A: NO.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I BELIEVE THAT THE FOLLOW-UP TALKS ARE MORE LIKELY TO COME IN NEXT MONTH RATHER THAN NOW. THE FOLLOW-UP TALKS IN ANY CASE, I WANT TO STRESS, WOULD NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL DISCUSSIONS AT ALL, BUT MORE LIKELY SIMPLY A FURTHER EXPLORATION OF THE BASIC KINDS OF CONCERNS THAT WERE PUT FORWARD BY MR. ECEVIT.

Q: IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE CLIFFORD MISSION WILL BE RE-UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTIVATED?

A: NO. THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR THAT.

Q: HODDING, YOU SAID NO PLEDGES OR PROMISES WERE MADE THEN.

DID MR. VANCE GIVE A TIME FRAME TO MR. ECEVIT AS MR. ECEVIT CLAIMED?

A: WE DO NOT HAVE AN ABSOLUTE TIME FRAME FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS WHICH I THINK OUGHT TO BE CLEAR. NOT ONLY FOR THE REASONS THAT WE HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE, I.E. QUESTIONS INVOLVING THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN GENERALLY, BUT ALSO BECAUSE, AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE TWO MAJOR ISSUES IN ANY CASE WHICH ARE ON THE SENATE CALENDAR AND THAT IS JUST SIMPLY A FACT OF LIFE.

SO, I DON'T THINK WE HAVE A SET TIME FRAME TO OFFER.

Q: WILL YOU BE PREPARED TO ASK FOR THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO EVEN IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS IN CYPRUS?

A: LET ME SAY SOMETHING ON THAT. CYPRUS IS CLEARLY A MAJOR FACTOR IN CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD OUR SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY AND, THEREFORE, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER CONGRESSIONAL ENDORSEMENT OF THE DCA WITH TURKEY WOULD BE FACILITATED BY DEMONSTRABLE PROGRESS TOWARD A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. END TEXT. VANCE

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